James Best

Prof. Fink/ Zeik

Internship Program I

February 9th 2016

Examiner Internship Week of 2/5

During my second week with the Examiner Newspaper I was tasked with finding possible stories from the Mt. Kisco Board of Trustees meeting in Mt Kisco New York. On Monday February 1st I traveled to the town of Mt. Kisco Village Hall and sat in on a meeting involving Village Mayor Micheal Cindrich, Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus, and Trustee Karen Schleimer as they spoke about the issue regarding the Village over the last month.

During the meeting I took extensive notes as listened for anything I thought may be interesting for a story. My supervisor, Examiner Editor in Chief Martin Wilbur advised that I write down anything not mentioned on the Village meeting agenda.

Mayor Micheal Cindrich spoke about two grants that the Village of Mt Kisco received through the federal government for community improvements. He also mentioned that Peter Harckman, who works for New York State Homes and Community Renewal under Govenor Cuomo, was instrumental in assisting the village through the process.

After the meeting was adjourned I immediately called my supervisor Martin Wilbur and went over some of the interesting storylines I could use for my article this week. I told him about the grants and the improvements to the Village of Mt Kisco and he suggested I do more research on the story.

I attempted to get in contact with Peter Harckham using his cell phone number. After contacting Harckham, he told me that I would have to go through the HCR press office to ask questions to him because he works for the New York State government.

I then emailed the HCR press office and waited for a response.

While waiting for a response I then contacted the Village Mayor's office and asked for permission to speak to Mayor Cindrich. After emailing the mayor I waited for a response.

By Friday February 5th I received a response from both Mayor Cindrich and the HCR press office setting up meetings with both of them for the following week.

On Monday February 8th I received a call from the HCR Press Office and Peter Harckham and I was able to ask the perspective questions for my article. The HCR Press Office was amazing and Harckham gave me a lot of good information for my article. The Press Office even helped me by sending a press release with information about what the grants specifically will do for the Village of Mount Kisco.

I then was able to use that information to write a good article on the two grants that the Village of Mount Kisco received. I used the quotes that the mayor said during the Board of Trustees meeting and the quotes from Harckham in my article and sent it in to Mr. Wilbur on Monday February 8th.

On Tuesday February 9th I received an email from Mr. Wilbur stating that I had done a good job on the article considering the time restraints I had to the deadline and that I had to make sure to pay attention to the spelling of Peter Harckham's name.

That was something that I had learned to be important back in my Writing in the Print Media class with Professor Kevin Czerwinski. No one wants a lawsuit over misspelling a name.

In conclusion I learned a lot during my past week as a reporter and journalist for the Examiner. I realize that the communication aspect of being a local journalist is different than being a Pace journalist because of proximity. Because Pace University is a relatively small campus it is easier to communicate with People such as teacher’s students and leaders of organization because they are around more. When working locally it’s a lot more phone call conversations and emails which is a different medium of communication than I was used to working for the Pace Chronicle last semester. Still I am fortunate to have this opportunity and thank Mr. Wilbur every day. This is truly a blessing to get this type of experience so early in my career. I look forward to the future and covering more events maybe even hard news stories with examiner. The soft news is fun and easy but it’s the hard news that will really challenge my skills as a reporter. I will hear back from Mr. Wilbur on Thursday or Friday with another story and have the weekend to work on it. I can’t wait to see what I can do next.

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